



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Simpson:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). As you begin the process of drafting the FY 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide substantial and meaningful funding for these critical programs. Specifically, we ask you to include \$325 million for the federal LWCF program, \$125 million for the LWCF stateside program, and \$125 million for the FLP in the bill.

As our communities address the pressures that new development is putting on their remaining recreation lands, often by voting for increased land conservation spending, we are committed to working with mayors, county commissioners, and state officials to assist their efforts to protect critical lands and ensure recreational opportunities for all. The FLP and LWCF provide critical funding to protect and enhance our National Parks, Forests, Wildlife Refuges, and Bureau of Land Management lands as well as key federal assistance for our communities to achieve these common goals.

For the past 44 years, the LWCF has helped to ensure the permanent protection of critical lands in our national forests, recreation areas, parks, wildlife refuges, Civil War battlefields, and historic sites. Equally important, it has provided matching funds to support countless state park and recreation projects in thousands of communities in every state in the nation. The FLP was created as part of the 1990 Farm Bill, and assists states in conserving working forestland that is threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Over the past 19 years, it has prevented the loss of over 1.7 million acres of forestland in 36 states and leveraged an equal amount of state, local, and private funding for every federal dollar spent.

In every state in the nation, LWCF and FLP funds have ensured that all Americans have access to lands where they can hunt, fish, play ball, hike, bird watch, paddle a canoe, or ride a bike. Working only with landowners who are willing sellers, federal, state, and local agencies are protecting the best of what remains so that future generations can also reap the benefits of access to outdoor recreation, America's unique historic and cultural sites, water quality protection and protected

wildlife. LWCF funds for maintenance and development of additional parks, campgrounds, and ball fields are also essential to ensuring access to recreation close to home.

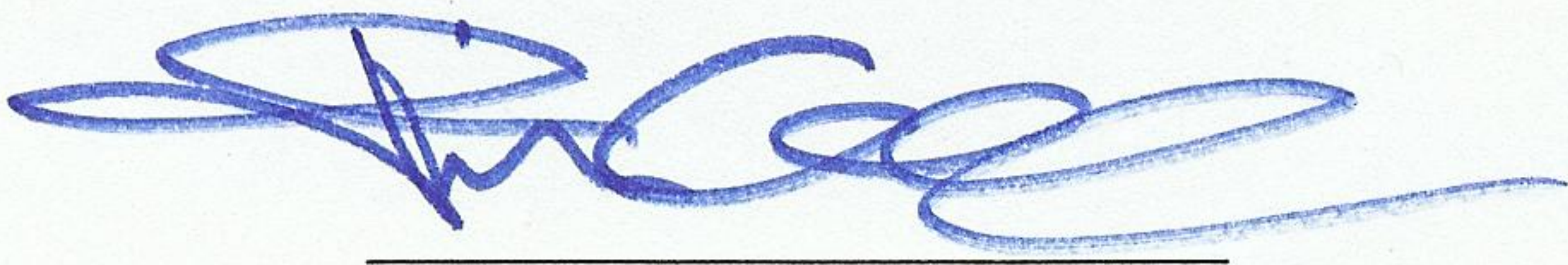
We appreciate the challenges that the Subcommittee faces in a difficult budget year, and we hope you will recognize the importance of these programs to our nation's quality of life. In addition, it is worth noting that these funds will have a direct and meaningful impact on the economy throughout our communities. Many of the funds are matched with state, local, or private funds that will stretch the federal funding even further.

In these difficult times, parks are economic generators. The development and maintenance of park infrastructure—recreational facilities, roads, public welcome facilities—provide quality jobs that our nation needs right now. In addition, parks, forests, refuges, and other open spaces support the quality-of-life factors that can make the difference for communities seeking to attract employers and a strong work force. LWCF funds park development activities through the stateside program and increased public recreation through the federal side as new lands are opened to public recreation.

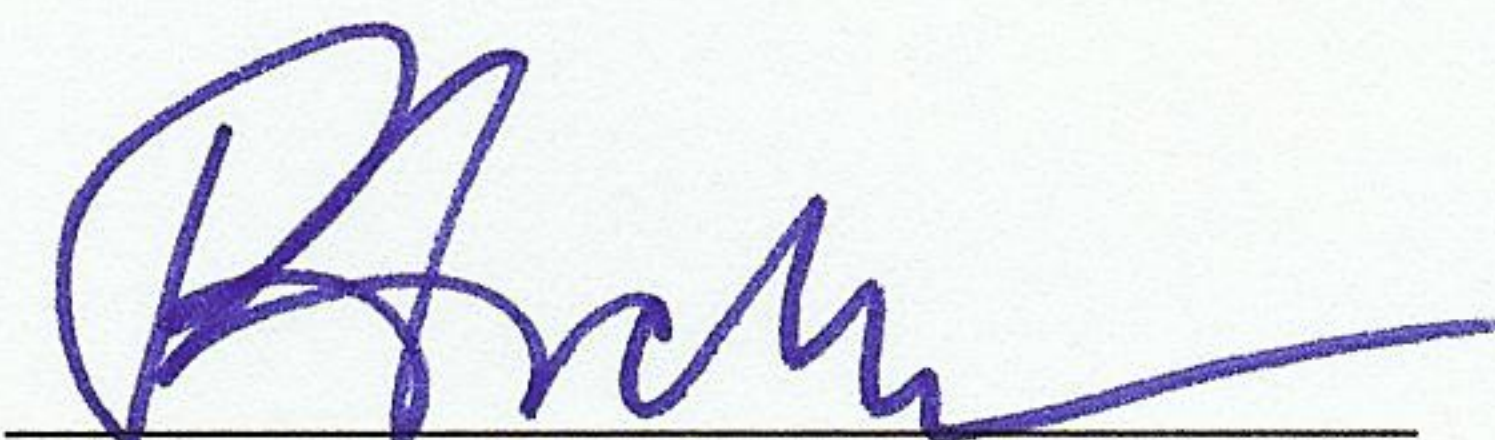
We look forward to working with the Subcommittee in the coming months to ensure that these programs are adequately funded in Fiscal Year 2010 so that the federal government can maintain its commitment to conservation. This funding will help to ensure that critical park protection and recreational development opportunities throughout the nation are not lost forever. As Americans continue to visit our nation's forests, parks, and wildlife refuges and participate in recreation close to home, we urge you to provide the funding levels necessary to ensure these opportunities exist everywhere in our great Nation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

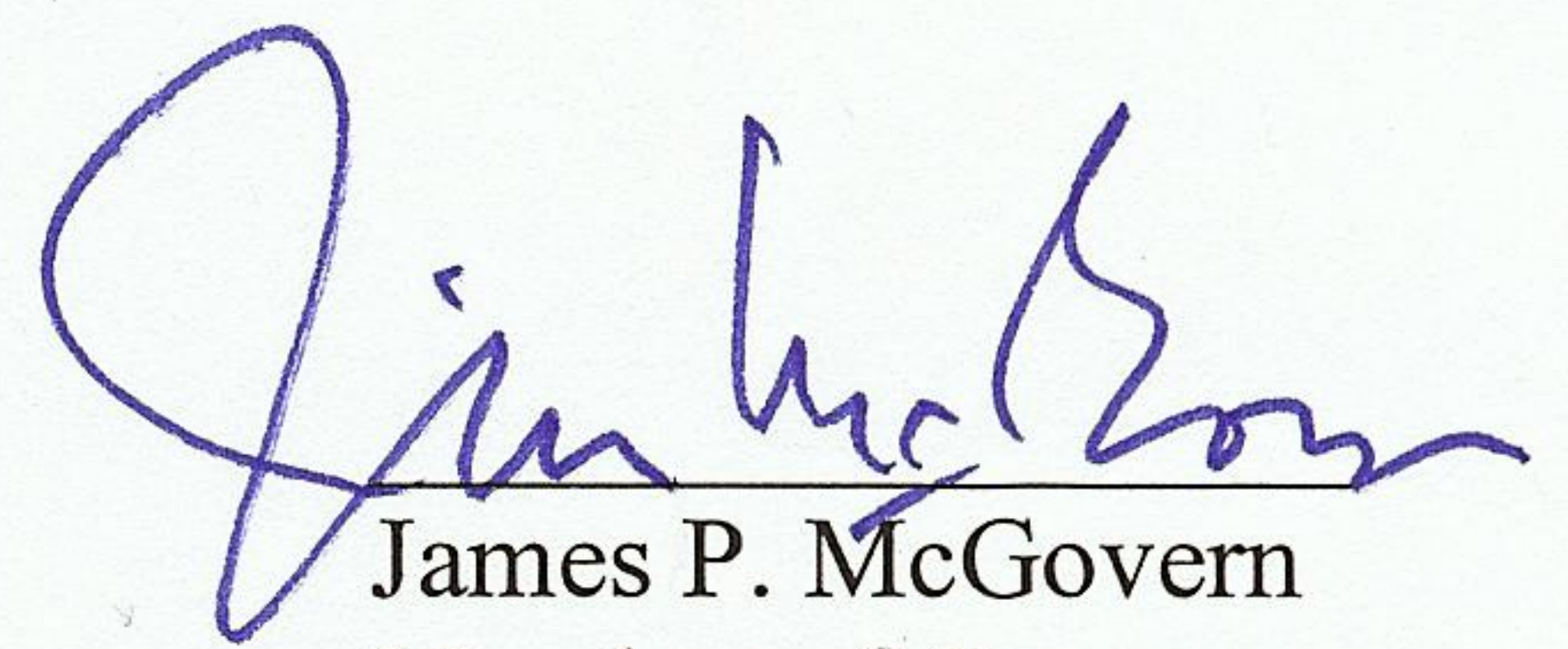
Sincerely,



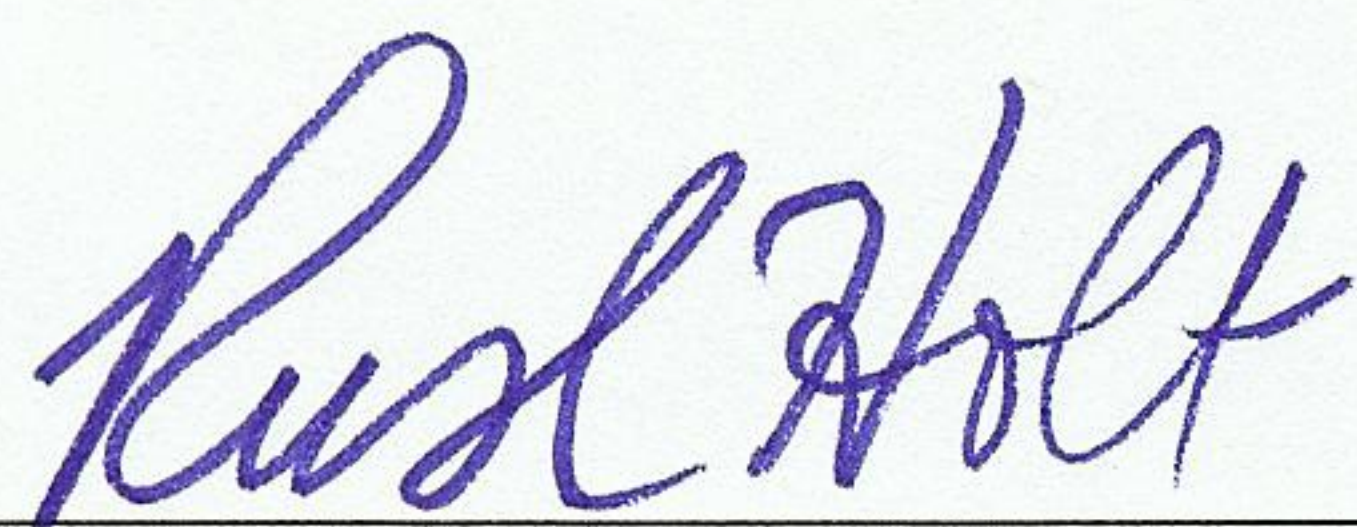
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



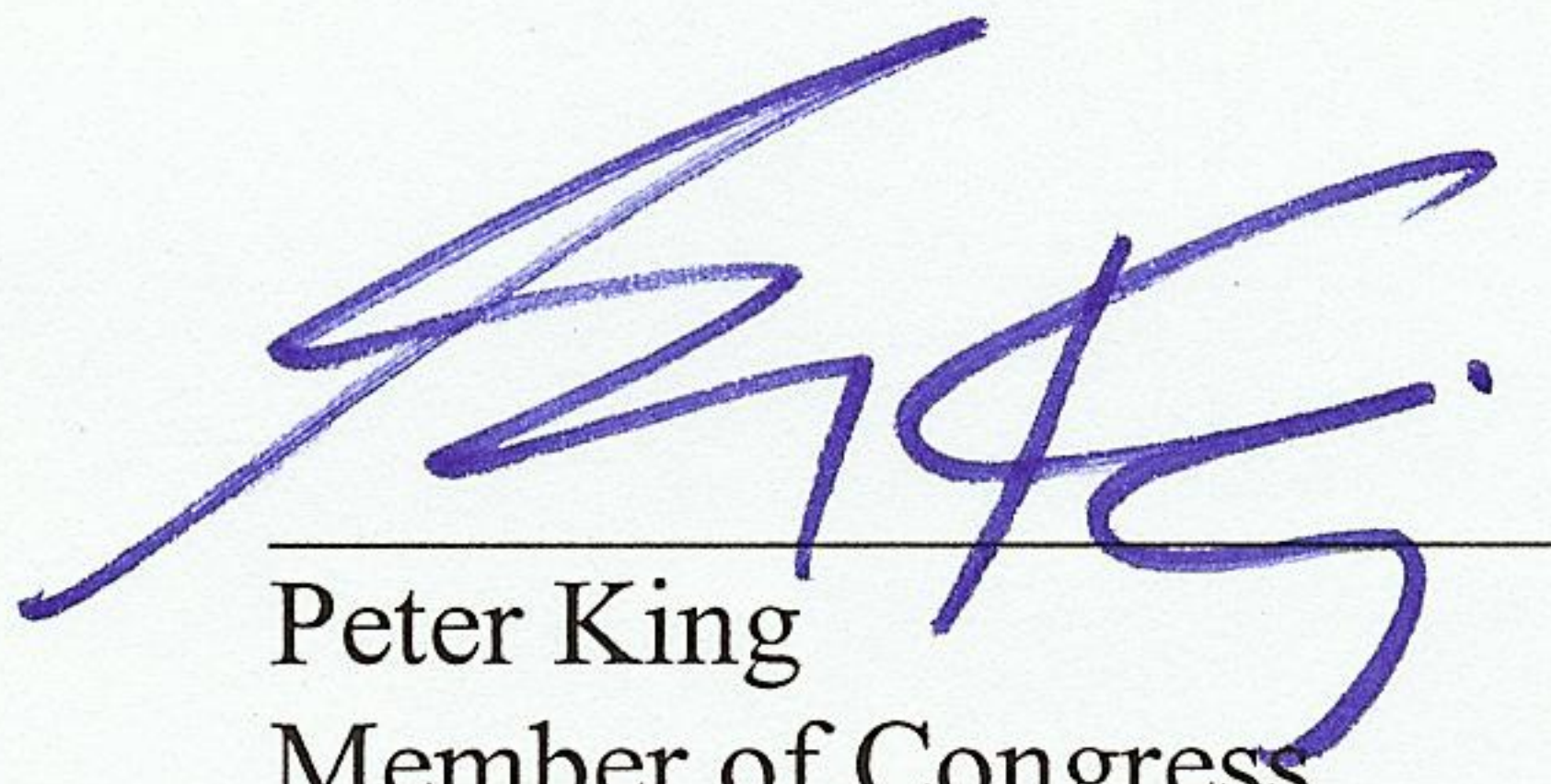
Paul Hodes
Member of Congress



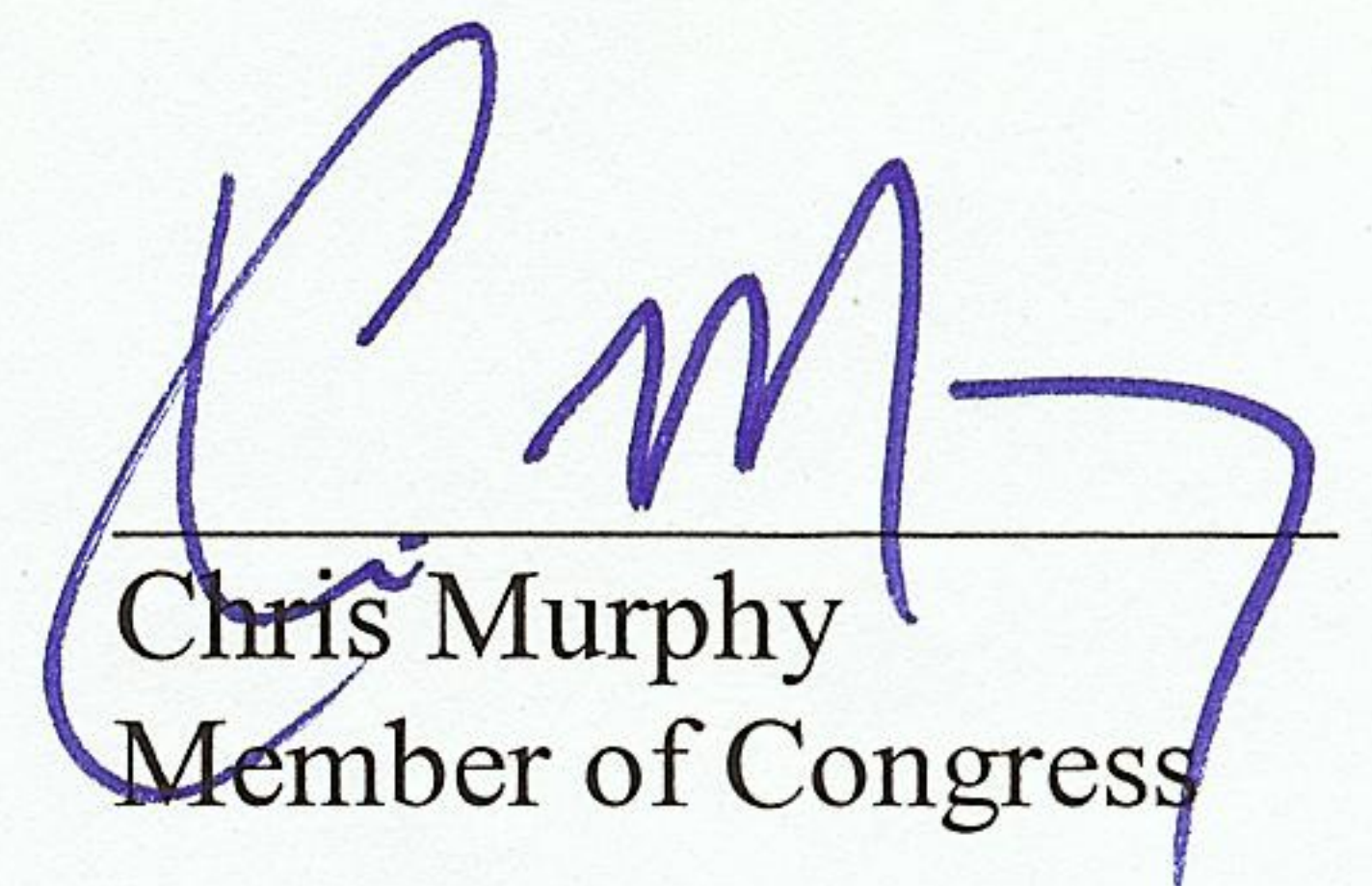
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress



Chris Murphy
Member of Congress

Rick Boucher

Howard L. Berman

Samuel Baker

Benny Frank

Tim Peters

~~Mike~~ ~~Don~~

Carol Shea-Power

Shelly Moore Capito

~~Anna~~ Shoo

John F. Tenny

Robt C. ~~_____~~

Michael

Brad Sherman

Glenn Smith

Jim Cluster

~~Mark~~

Neil Abernethy

~~_____~~

Joe Courtney

Christopher P. Choe

Ed Pemberton

~~Ken~~ ~~_____~~

Bob Morley
John Russell

Jerry Moran

Hank Johnson

Robert Wynn

Alvin Sims

Tom Klein

Vernon J. Ehlers

Jackie Spencer

Stephanie Gertrude Sandlin

Joe Ann

Judy Biggert
Dave Lockman

Paula Landman
Bill Mene

Bill Pascrell Jr

Howard Coble

John L. Binkle

Bart Gordon

John McHugh

Hy E. Ruff

Pat Kujala

Art-Rabae

Melanie Watson

Viv Snyder

Jim Hut

Robert J. Wittman

Mike Castle

~~Tom~~ Tracy

Frank Pallone Jr.

Candice S. Miller

James C. Axmin

R Parker Griffith

Dennis J. Kucinich

D. Berland

Pat J

Harry E. Mitchell

John Allen

Steve Cohen

Ron Kind

Wien Longman

Hyman Dylis

HA

Prinipi

Dana Buckle

Charles Foster

William E. Neal

Paul R. Ellis

Ben A. L. L.

Kathy Castor

Charles G. Ziegler

Niki Torges

Bob Ethridge

Mary Jo Tilley

Gene Taylor

Elijah E. Tummings

John R. O.

Vic Snyder

Mike Doyle

John P. L.

Al F.

Scott Garrett

James M. Hunt

Steve Wagner

Patricia L.

Kathleen

Rich Luson

Paul Tonto

Hot Shb

Aslee

Michael H. Michael

Rail M. Hijalwa

John Hall

Bob Filner

Harry A. Wayman

Earl Blumauer

Edward J. Markey

Luis Cuppa

Paul Smith

Mike McIntyre

Te Hlon

Ric Melakut

Jimmy Batcher

The Her

Lee

George Miller

Eliot L. Engel

Betty Sutton

Patrick J. Kennedy

Brian A. Cox

Jim McNamara

Allyson G. Schriener

Tammy Felt

Wendy Shomay

Jim Sanguin

Leonard Lence

Michael G. Lee

Rosa L. Delano

James

Fred R. Platts

Diana DeHette

Carolyn B. Mahay

Donald M. Payne

Sandy Lee

Donna

Mazie K. Hirono

John W. Dr

Herold Nadler

Clark E. Childer

Alfred D. Hastings

Abercrombie
Adler
Andrews
Arcuri
Bachus
Baldwin
Berman
Biggert
Blumenauer
Boucher
Brady, Kevin
Brown Jr.
Moore Capito
Capps
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Christensen
Coble
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Costa
Courtney
Cummings
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dingell
Doyle
Ehlers
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fattah
Filner
Frank
Garrett
Gerlach
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Gene

Griffith
Grijalva
Hall
Hastings
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Inslee
Johnson
Kagen
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilroy
Kind
King, Peter
Klein
Kratovil, Jr.
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen
Levin
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey, Edward
Markey, Betsy
McHugh
McIntyre
McGovern
McNerney
Michaud
Murphy, Christopher
Murphy, Patrick
George Miller
Brad Miller
Candice Miller
Mitchell
Moore, Gwen
Moore, Dennis

Moran
Murphy
Nadler
Neal
Oberstar
Ortiz
Pallone, Jr.
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Petri
Pierluisi
Pingree
Russell Platts
Polis
Rahall
Reichert
Ross
Herseth Sandlin
Sarbanes
Schwartz
Scott, Bobby
Scott, David
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Smith, Chris
Snyder
Speier
Sutton
Taylor
Tierney
Thompson
Tonko
Tsongas
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wexler
Weiner
Wittman
Wu